

CLAIMS

1. A digital document system in which a digital document in a communication network is shared between a plurality of stations, said system
5 comprising:

- a first station (101A, 101B) having a first digital document (DD1) comprising a thumbnail data item (TH1) and an original data item (HR1);
- a second station (102A, 103B) having a second digital document (DD2) comprising a thumbnail data item (TH2); and
- 10 - a center station (100A, 100B) comprising:
 - calculating means for calculating signatures of the thumbnail data items (TH1, TH2) of the first and second digital documents (DD1, DD2);
 - comparing means for comparing the calculated signatures of the thumbnail data items (TH1, TH2); and
 - 15 • transmitting means for transmitting information for accessing the original data item (HR1) of the first digital document (DD1) to the second station (102A, 103B) according to a result of the comparison.

2. A method of controlling a center station (100A, 100B) capable of
20 communicating with a plurality of stations sharing a digital document in a communication network, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

- a) receiving a thumbnail data item (TH1) comprised in a first station (101) and a thumbnail data item (TH2) comprised in a second station (102A, 103B);
- 25 b) calculating a signature from each of the received thumbnail data items (TH1, TH2);
- c) comparing the calculated signatures of the received thumbnail data items (TH1, TH2), and
- d) transmitting information for accessing an original data item (HR1)
30 related to the thumbnail data item (TH1) to the second station (102A, 103B) according to a result of the comparison.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the thumbnail data item (TH2) comprised in the second station (102A, 103B) is generated in the first station (101A, 101B).

5 4. A method according to claim 2, wherein color histograms each based on the thumbnail data items (TH1, TH2) is calculated as the signatures in said calculating step.

10 5. A method according to claim 2, wherein a comparison is performed based on a difference and a threshold calculated from the thumbnail data items (TH1, TH2) in said comparing step.

15 6. A method according to claim 2, wherein said communication network is a peer-to-peer network.

 7. A method according to claim 2, wherein the first station is a digital camera apparatus and generates the original data item (HR1).

20 8. A method of controlling a station (101A, 101B)) capable of sharing a digital document in a communication network, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

 i) generating an original data item (HR1);
 ii) generating a thumbnail data item (TH1) from the original data item (HR1);
25 iii) transmitting the thumbnail data item (TH1) to the other station; and
 iv) receiving an access from said other station to the original data item (HR1) based on the thumbnail data item (TH1).

30 9. A method of controlling a station capable of sharing a digital document in a communication network, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

 1) receiving a thumbnail data item (TH2) from other station;

2) transmitting the received thumbnail data item (TH2) to a center station (100A, 100B);

3) receiving, from the center station (100A, 100B), information for accessing the original data item (HR1) related to the thumbnail data item (TH1)
5 determined based on the thumbnail data item (TH2).

10. A computer program stored in an information carrier, said program comprising instructions enabling the implementation of a processing method according to claim 2, when that program is located and executed by a
10 computer system.

11. A computer program stored in an information carrier, said program comprising instructions enabling the implementation of a processing method according to claim 8, when that program is located and executed by a
15 computer system.

12. A computer program stored in an information carrier, said program comprising instructions enabling the implementation of a processing method according to claim 9, when that program is located and executed by a
20 computer system.

13. A device for accessing a digital document in a communication network characterized in that it comprises means adapted to implement a sharing method according to claim 2.
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14. A device for accessing a digital document in a communication network characterized in that it comprises means adapted to implement a sharing method according to claim 8.

30 15. A device for accessing a digital document in a communication network characterized in that it comprises means adapted to implement a sharing method according to claim 9.